SCOUTING ABOUT

Autumn - 2003

News from the South African Scout Association.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONTINGENT TO 20th WORLD JAMBOREE - THAILAND

The South African Contingent decked out in their smart camp uniform.

SAHQ ANNOUNCEMENTS

The first quarter of 2003 has been an eventful one. The Association has been accepted as a full member of the Proudly South African campaign. Qualification for membership is not automatic with adherence to stringent requirements being fulfilled by the Association. We are indeed Proudly South African!

Millie Siebrits has recently been appointed as Project Manager based at National Headquarters. She has extensive project management experience having worked locally and abroad. Her academic credentials and experience make her an asset to the Association, which could only have been possible with the assistance of NOVIB. Part of Millie's task is to assist Areas with regards to projects nationally. She will also assist in building the capacity of Area teams in terms of fund development strategies going forward. I am sure you will join us in warmly welcoming Millie to the National Team.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To the following Springbok/Topaward Scouts who were presented with their hard earned awards between January/April 2003.

Jared Harding, **Peter Demeyer** of Cape Eastern - **Soogashan Naicker**, **Wesley Martin** of Kwazulu Natal - **Gerrit Withaar**, **Chris-Jan Cornelius**, **Creston R Greenburg**, **Alistair Riddin** of Tswane - **Nicholas Venturas**, **Brian C de Jong**, **Bjorn Hinrichsen**, **Shaun Currie**, **Christhopher de Bree**, **David Pierce**, **Peter D Sprong**, **Michael Medhurst**, **Ryan de Jager** of Gauteng - **Andrew Young**, **Ross E McDonald**, **Dane J Richards**, **Andrew Caldwell** of Cape Western.

DUTY TO GOD:

The Real Meaning of Love

Scouting stands, as it always has, for fostering peace, friendship and understanding among the peoples of the community and the world, irrespective of country, class, colour or creed. In short, for love of our fellow men and, beyond that, love for all the flora and fauna, for all of God's creatures.

It's why we Promise to help other people at all times. It's why in the Scout Law we stress being a friend to all - including animals.

Love at these high levels, is something important to think about, to meditate upon, to begin more fully to understand what life is all about. These profound lines by Ella Wheela Wilcox can be helpful to our meditations:

The longer I live and the more I see
Of the struggle of souls toward the heights above,
The stronger this truth comes home to me;
That the Universe rests on the shoulders of love;
A love so limitless, deep and broad,
That men have renamed it and called it - God.

Vic Clapham - Veld Lore

GONE HOME:

Brian Foya - Regional Secretary, Southern Zone of the African Region of World Scouting and Former Chief Executive of Scouting Zimbabwe - the result of a motor accident recently in Namibia. All in scouting who knew him, send condolences to his family.

THOUGHTS OF A PAST CHIEF SCOUT

Twenty years ago our past Chief Scout and then Chairman of the Southern Zone, Africa Region of World Scouting, Carveth H. Geach, wrote the following, most thought provoking article in Veld Lore. How profound it was then, how profound today in our "new" South Africa.

" Let us bear in mind the famous words of Sophocles:

"Anarchy, anarchy! Show me a greater evil! This is why cities tumble and great houses rain down. This is what scatters armies."

In any organisation, large or small, there must be a certain orderliness; if things fall into disorder nothing can be accomplished. Yet as E.F. Schumacher stated in his famous little book: *Small is beautiful:* "Orderliness as such is static; so there must also be plenty of elbowroom and scope for breaking through the established order, to do the thing never done before, never anticipated by the guardian of orderliness; the new, unpredicted and unpredictable of a man's creative idea."

Most real human problems arise from the antinomy of order and freedom. Antinomy means a contradiction between two laws; a conflict of authority; opposition between laws and principles that appear to be equally founded on reason.

The future of the Scout movement and indeed our own personal futures as human beings, will depend on the wisdom of how and in what proportion we mix tradition and innovation. We must recognise that freedom, the state we prize above all others, can only exist in ordered conditions. Anarchy and chaos sound its death knell. Perhaps Montisqieu put the matter in its right perspective when he said; "Liberty is the right of doing whatever the law permits".

In our beloved Africa there is a particular and special need for change and wisdom; the first to take place within an orderly framework and the second to guide that change towards the genuine benefit of the boys whom we serve rather than for national, sectional or individual advantage.

With special reference to our Scouting organisation and institutions let our prayer be that God may give us the power to change the things we can, the skill and patience to accept those which we cannot change and the wisdom to know the difference."

5th AFRICA JAMBOREE

This Jamboree will be held at Catembe, Xefina Island, Mozambique, December 2004 to January 2005. Activities will include Boating, sailing in Maputo Bay, fishing and Community Service. Keep abreast of this event on www.scouting.org.za/africa/jamboree

AJ 2004

The 20th Australian Jamboree (AJ2004) is being held at Woodhouse in the Adelaide Hills, South Australia from 5th - 15th January 2004. South African Scouts and Leaders are invited to attend but time is short. The Jamboree is of course for scouts who must be part of a South African Contingent, with adult leaders - to find out if you are eligible and if there is sufficient interest to form such a contingent, contact SAHQ on 021 6833910. You will be required to complete a form "Registering your interest" and have an authorization from your Area Head Quarters. Have a look at www.jamboree.scouts.com.au

SUOMEN PARTIOLAISET - FINLANDS SCOUTER RY

An Invitation for Scouts and Guides to attend the 5th Finjamboree - 28 July to 5 August 2004 - TARUS The International Finnjamboree will be held in Southern Finland just outside Helsinki. There are positions on the staff for Scouters if not involved in a contingent job. Camp cost E175 which means you still have to reach Helsinki! Closing Date for entries 31 December 2003.
E-mail for more information: tarus.international@sp.partio.fi
Web: www.partio.fi/tarus/en

We publish the particulars of various International Jamborees with the understanding that any scouts or leaders who would like to attend them, complete the Scout or Scouters Application for Overseas Contingent Form to be found in the new Troop Scouter's Handbook. This form then must be endorsed by your District Commissioner and Area Commissioner, before being forwarded to SA Headquarters for consideration. The forms, as published, are for attending the 2007 World Jamboree but the same information is needed for attending any other International event, just state which event you are interested in and arrange with SAHQ on how payment will be made.

TROOP SCOUTERS HANDBOOK

The up-to-date Troop Scouters Handbook is available at your Area Headquarters/Scout Shop at a very subsidised price. This Scout Publication (A4) size, well bound, is a must for every Troop Scouter. It contains the latest Advancement Programme, Scoutcraft and Interest Badge requirements - all the forms you need to run your Troop efficiently. There are suggested troop meeting programmes on the various Advancement requirements and the book ends off informing the Troop Scouter on their responsibilities as far as Gender, Children's Rights and Volunteers are concerned, a truly worthwhile publication.

Message in a Bottle – The Scouting Way

Scouting is truly international! What are the odds of a bottled Scout message reaching other Scouts in a far off country?

As part of the Scout Awareness Challenge week, the Troop Scouter of 1st Doonside Scout Group, John Fellows Smith, released 10 bottles with messages in them into the Agulhas current running south along the East Coast of Southern Africa. At Aliwal Shoal. which is a famous dive site 5km from the coast off Umkomaas on the KwaZulu Natal South Coast, John, a very experienced and active diver, went below the surface and released his Group's awareness messages where the current flowed strongest. This was on 5 July 1997

In December 2002, four and a half years later the bottle washed ashore at Two People Bay 20km east of Albany, South Western Australia. The bottle (a square bottle resembling a whisky bottle) was uncorked, the message taken out and the bottle thrown away. The message was passed on to Shirley Robinson, a District Commissioner of Stirling District in South Western Australia. The message was reported by Ms. Robinson as being fragile and some of it being unreadable. The message was shown to a Scout Group in Albany and is now in a museum awaiting restoration.

John's son Kyle, also a Scout, recalls his father 'delivering' the bottle into the current of Aliwal Shoal. Sadly, John was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident since releasing the bottles. The KwaZulu Natal Area recall knowing John well and also how excited he was anticipating where and when the bottles would wash up. Shortly before his death he was involved in a dramatic rescue operation of other divers at the Shoal. John can be regarded as a Scout's Scout and through his contributions to his community and Scouting, will be remembered with fondness by all in the Association.

It is with anticipation that we wait for the arrival of the other nine bottles!

H.V. MARCH AWARD FOR SCOUT JOURNALISM

There were shared winners of this prestigious Award in 2002. Algoa Sea Scout Group's "Algoa Anchor News" - editor Lisbet Demeyer and "Squadron News" of 1st Cowies Hill Air Scout Group, walked away with the honours in the recent judging of Group Magazines issued during 2002. SCOUTING ABOUT congratulates both editors and Groups for their dedication and effort in producing such excellent publications. We must also congratulate all those Groups that entered their efforts in the competition and were unsuccessful. In fact we congratulate every Group that has made the effort, no matter how humble, in issuing a Scout magazine or news sheet to keep their members and friends informed.

The 2002 - H.V. March Award is the 40th year that this magnificent trophy has been judged. We must think back to the people who had the foresight to realise that communication within the Scout Group was paramount in the success or otherwise of each and every scouting effort - Vic Clapham, of Kwazulu Natal, the doyan of the scout printed word and Ron Nicol of Cape Eastern, who published virtually everything of scouting importance in those early years. Vic for his imagination and gifts for drawing and the use of the printed word - and Ron, for his cajoling of all aspiring Scout editors, of the day, through his "Scouting Press Club" and other publications.

Lisbet Demeyer receiving the H.V. March Trophy from Cape Eastern Area, Area Commissioner, Ernie Pike, at a recent Scouters Council Meeting.

TWENTIETH WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE - THAILAND

Every four years Scouts from around the world gather for a World Jamboree. The twentieth world Jamboree was held in Thailand between 24 December 2002 and 8 January 2003.

This amazing event was attended by 20 000 Scouts (about 50% boys and 50% girls) from about 140 countries with 5 000 staff, also from a wide range of countries. The Jamboree site covered an area of about 5 km2 with 3km of beach, on the edge of a Thailand Navy base. The Thailand Government had developed what was previously "veld" with roads, water treatment, water distribution, sewerage treatment, electricity and all the other facilities needed for 25 000 people to live.

The total cost of the event was about US $21m of which the participants paid US $7m and the Thailand Government $14 m.

What went on? For six of the days the Scouts participated in a different activity each day, and sometimes different activities in the morning and the afternoon.

The main activities were:

"Face the Waves" which took place on the beach where the Scouts could participate in a range of water sports from wind surfing and sailing to dragon boat racing and snorkelling.

The "Crossroads of Culture" where a lot of countries ran different activities, typical of their country in which the Scouts could participate. These varied from a Le Crosse and ice hokey, on an in-door scale, by Canada, to writing and performing hip-hop songs organised by Germany and playing traditional Thai instruments, to name just a few.

The Global Development Village comprised the themes of health, heritage, peace and environment. Within each theme there were 12 to 16 workshops on different topics as well as a number of activities centres for each theme.

The "Community Action Day" involved the Scouts in going out to a number of villages within about 100 kms of the jamboree site where they participated in community

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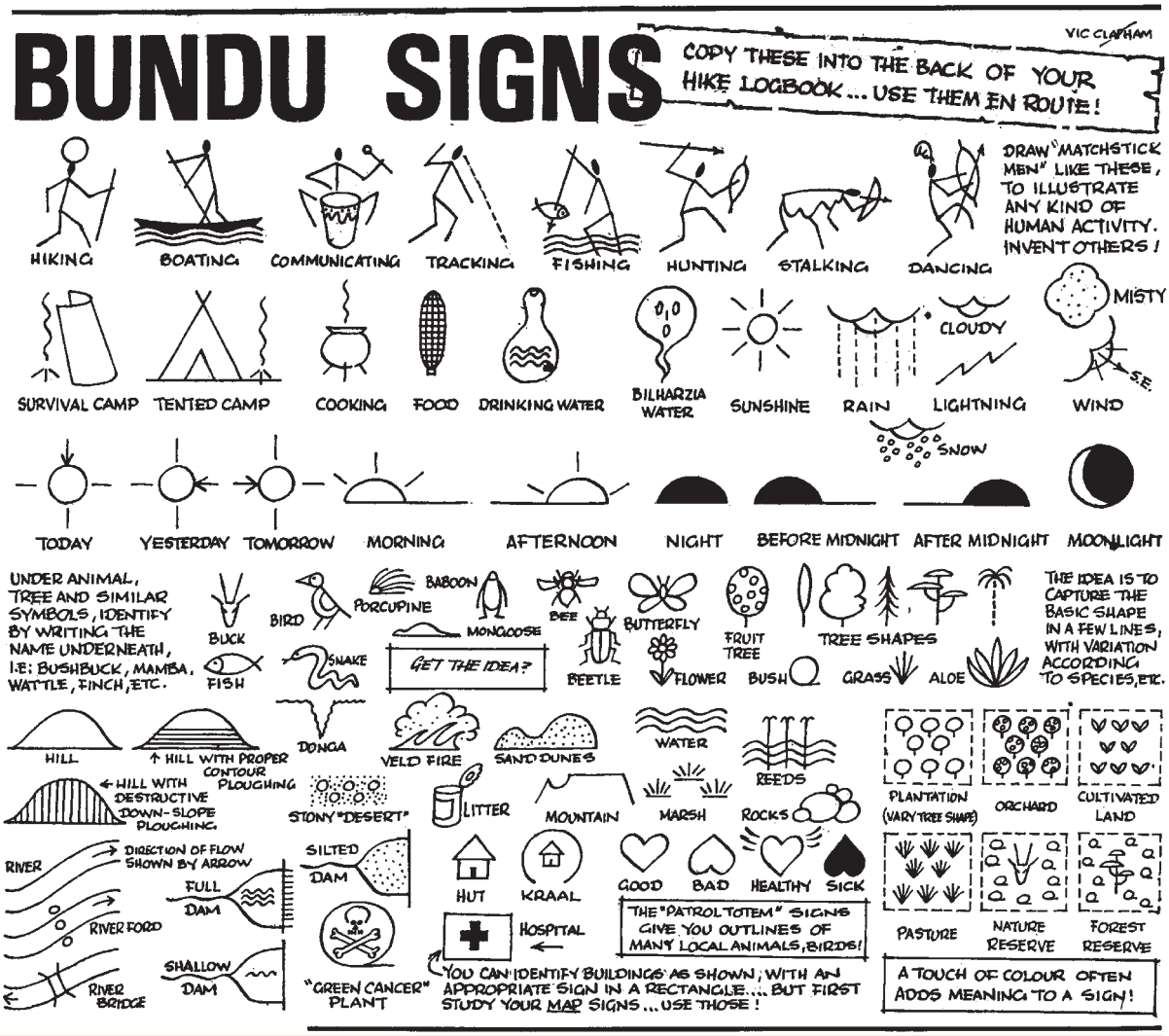
MPUMALANGA AREA ACTION

Nsikazi and Inyamazane Districts Combined Camp - The start of the Big Parade through the town of Chweni.



In the very first edition of "Veld Lore" Vic Clapham introduced Bundu Signs - for use in logbooks and sketch maps, and for decorating campfire blankets, patrol corners etc. The idea was inspired by the Red Indian sign language, and he built up this African collection, which is influenced by the style of Bushman rock paintings.

20th World Jamboree - continued

development activities for schools, churches and recreational facilities.

The "Tournaments" comprised what we might regard as traditional scouting events, from obstacle courses to climbing walls, mountain biking and pioneering.

The "City of Science" consisted of 20 different activity centres ranging from a ham radio station to computer activities, DNA analysis, chromographic analysis to solve "mysteries" as well as making fuel from biological resources, to name a few.

"Exploring Nature" which consisted of a number of half day and day hikes.

What did I do? I was a member of the International Service Team and was assigned to the global development village where I worked in the environment theme, helping to run a workshop on the impacts of various activities on the water resources of a catchment. Sounds familiar? The workshop had been planned by a Thai NGO and had four staff from Thailand, SA (me), Costa Rica and Switzerland. On each of our "activity days" we ran a workshop in the morning and the afternoon, attended by between 20 and 30 Scouts, usually from 5 or 6 different countries. The workshop comprised some discussions around the problems that each country experienced as well as practical activities on a large model catchment where the scouts placed various activities, ranging from paper mills to coal mines, villages and agriculture. They then discussed and demonstrated their impacts on the water resource using dyes and other "pollutants".

Attending a World Jamboree was a remarkable experience, for a number of reasons:

Living in an environment where one could regard everybody as a friend, even though you had never met before, and just start up a conversation

Seeing young people (14 – 18 year olds), from different countries working together to overcome language barriers, solve problems together while making new friends

Realising that the Scout Movement and what it stands for, can do a tremendous amount for the development of youth in any community.

This experience revitalised my commitment to help Scouting to make a difference in South Africa.

After the Jamboree, I spent a week in northern Thailand at Chang Mai and Chang Rai, but that's another story!!

Andrew Tanner

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